

## John Coffee to Andrew Jackson, February 12, 1818, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### BRIGADIER-GENERAL JOHN COFFEE TO JACKSON.

Dittoes Landing, February 12, 1818.

*Dear Genl,* I have just had time this evening to leave the land sale, to ride to this place and spend one night with my old companions the officers of the Ten. Volunteers. . . . The land sale has progressed, thus far very well, we are now in the last range of the first sale, the prices has surpassed, any ever known in the U.S. heretofore, the highest price given has been \$78. per acre, several as high as 70, and many as high as 50 dollars—the common cotton land has been from 20 to 30 dollars. Christopher Hutchings has bought his fraction at \$12. per acre, when we saw the prices giving for other lands it was thought to be a good bargain at that price. I have not as yet bot. any land for the estate J.H.<sup>1</sup> and should the land near Browns ferry go very high, we shall not purchase

<sup>1</sup> John Hutchings. See vol. I., p. 84, note.

for it, but wait a further sale, I refer you to the letter of Mr. J. Jackson for the particulars of the land sales, will only remark, that the company that was forming when you passed here, have been very much Chagrined. they have been lashed through every sale when they bid for good land, and if they got it, it was at a very high price, the sharp shooters have cut them side and edge, and still have the means of keeping up the fire, the company has been formed of men from Virginia, Kentuckey, Georgia, and Madison County, not one Tennessean is in it, indeed the scheme when it was understood, was thought so illiberal, that we have joined forcees against it, and have been thereby able to defeat their plans, but it has caused the land to sell, 50 percent over its value, thus the government has been

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benefited, instead, of being injured as was contemplated by the company, indeed the company or some of its members, has admitted that J.J. has benefitted the Govt. half a million of dollars, by opposing them.

For your amusement I inclose you an advertisement for a town the Tennesseans bot. near the mouth of Lewistone. its thought that it will be a valuable place. We shall endeavour to purchase some good land on Cypress if we can but I cannot foresee what value will be placed on them lands. It would be very gratifying to me to get a line from you, when opportunity permits. I pray you to accept my best wishes for you.